
PREFACE

The focus of this book is a grass-roots history of how the Pentecostal movement touched local communities across North Dakota. Through painstaking research, I identified and wrote histories of over 400 Pentecostal churches and outstations that have existed in the state. Most readers probably will be people who were associated at some point with the Pentecostal movement in North Dakota, for whom these pages will likely evoke memories. This book provides many congregations with their first written history, and supplements existing histories with additional information, particularly concerning their early years. Church members and pastors may find this book to be a useful handbook to Pentecostalism in their community. In addition to learning about the histories of local congregations, they can read about the history and beliefs of particular Pentecostal denominations or groups. Upon the approval of the author, these congregational histories may be reproduced for church use or for inclusion in city, county, and regional history books, many of which have neglected to include various Pentecostal churches. Importantly, this study provides evidence of Pentecostalism's roots in the northern Great Plains (including its roots in European pietism), buttressing the argument that Pentecostalism is *legitimately* North Dakotan, and not simply a cultural import from the American south. Great Plains Pentecostals may want to emphasize these roots in order to place themselves within the culture and traditions of their communities.

This study is of interest to scholars for several reasons. First, it is likely the most comprehensive historical survey of local Pentecostal congregations across an entire state. Meticulous reconstruction of long-forgotten histories allowed the compilation of statistics, such as the comparative longevity of churches within different denominations, the number of congregations and outstations in existence over the years and at various points in time, and the number of churches pioneered by female ministers. Researchers previously often had to rely on anecdotal evidence; this study provides hard data on Pentecostalism's development across an entire state.

Second, this study documents the role of the northern Great Plains in Pentecostal origins. Historians of Pentecostalism generally identify two early twentieth-century revivals as defining the movement: Topeka, KS (1901) and Azusa Street, Los Angeles, CA (1906-09). While these revivals were significant, earlier groups claiming to practice tongues speech and healing, in places like India, Tennessee, and Minnesota and the Dakotas, provided leaders and precedents for the emerging movement. This book contains the first significant study of pre-Azusa Scandinavian Pentecostals in Minnesota and the Dakotas, drawing upon rare, recently-discovered primary source materials. Of particular import are histories of several pre-Azusa Pentecostal congregational networks, a biography of early evangelist Carl M. Hanson, and the story of Mary Johnson of Fargo-Moorhead, likely the first Pentecostal missionary from America to venture overseas when she set sail for South Africa in 1904.

Third, this study addresses issues in Pentecostal historiography, including Pentecostal origins in Scandinavian pietism, early Pentecostals' community and political involvement, and Pentecostal proclivities among ethnic and religious groups. Fourth, this study contains information on previously undocumented denominations, including the Assembly of God Missionary Fellowship, the Church of God of the Firstborn, and the German Church of God.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Darrin J. Rodgers, a fourth-generation North Dakotan Pentecostal, is the son of John and Patricia Rodgers. Darrin was born in 1973 in Grand Forks and was raised in rural Thompson. With his family, he attended two Grand Forks churches, Calvary Temple Church of God and Valley Christian Center Assembly of God. He earned his B.A. (Hillsdale College), M.A.T.S. (Assemblies of God Theological Seminary), and J.D. (University of North Dakota School of Law), and authored articles published in *Assemblies of God Heritage* and the *New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* (Zondervan, 2002). Darrin resides in Bismarck.